

Chair & Committee Members
Committee: Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs & House Great Lakes &
Environment
ATTN: Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Honorable Senator Burkholz,
Please read this letter into the record on my behalf on April 1st 2009. Being involved in protecting and preserving our State's natural resources is not only important to all of us, it is critical to the economic health of Michigan. Tourism, and recreation has been among the top three (auto industry, agriculture, and tourism/recreation) economic indicators for Michigan for decades and is critical to a health Michigan. For Michiganders our Parks, Recreation Areas, and Natural Resources are why we choose to live in Michigan.

Improving the way our state provides funding for its Parks and Recreation system has been identified as the most important issue facing our States Natural Resources by professionals and common citizens. The Governors appointed, Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks has researched, and calculated the recently introduced Michigan Recreation Passport legislation and believes it is our best shot at establishing a stable funding mechanism for parks and recreation in Michigan for our future.

Thank-you for your efforts on this important legislation and for taking a few minutes to read my letter to your fellow state legislators. I want them to know that our State's parks and recreation resources are too important to be left to campers and beach goers to fund its future. This legislation isn't perfect - nothing is perfect. What this legislation is, is a symbol of faith that Michigan citizens will continue to support and contribute to maintaining our state and local parks and recreation areas and protect our State's Natural Resources for generations to come as they have done in the past. Thank you for your efforts in helping this legislation succeed.

Roland Johnson

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